MINUTES OF MEETING

CALFED Bay-Delta Water Quality Program
Drinking Water Targets Session
December 3, 1997

Attending in person were: Phil Wendt, Rich Breuer, Dan Otis, Bob Hultquist, Raymond Tom, Barry Gump, Tom Zuckerman, Roy Wolfe, Kevin Donhoff, Karl Stinson, Doug Owen, Byron Buck, Rick Woodard, Jeanette Thomas, and Jim Beck.

Attending via conference telephone were: Phil Metsger and Patrick Wright

Mssrs. Metsger and Wright joined the discussion for the first half hour during which time the CALFED approach to water quality targets was discussed. Rick Woodard began the discussion by indicating the purpose of the meeting was to seek advice on how CALFED should approach development of its water quality targets for bromide and Total Organic Carbon. Earlier advice from California Water Agencies was to use targets of 50 μg/L for bromide and 3 mg/L for TOC. EPA staff commented to the effect that a range of bromide (100-200 μg/L) and TOC (2-4 mg/L) was appropriate. The drinking water targets session was arranged to enable CALFED staff to better understand the basis for the CUWA and EPA recommendations, following which a decision was to be made.

In the discussion, consensus was reached that CALFED would use a sensitivity analysis approach to anticipate the consequences of more or less restrictive drinking water criteria with respect to bromide and TOC. Accordingly, a range of values will be used and the consequences analyzed using different assumptions of regulatory futures. CUWA staff will take the lead on proposing the exact analyses to be performed. The CUWA proposal will be submitted for review to CALFED and EPA staff with the intention that agreement on the analytical approach will be reached and the agreed upon analyses performed.

Rick was asked to supply copies of the EPA letter to CALFED recommending use of target ranges, and he agreed to do so.

EPA staff were not able to continue beyond this point in the meeting, and disconnected. Roy Wolfe went on to describe results of a recent epidemiological study of 5,000 female Californians who were divided into three groups according to concentrations of bromodichloromethane in their municipal drinking water. The group using water having the highest concentrations showed three times that rate of spontaneous abortions as was true for the group using drinking water having lowest concentrations. Results of this study were peer reviewed by EPA which found no significant technical flaws in the study. Publication of the study is expected in March 1998, and is expected to gain significant public interest.

Roy indicated that it is very unusual for epidemiological studies to show such clear results and the implication is that acute effects such as this will tend to drive acceptable bromide concentrations

in source waters downward, and that there will be increased emphasis on instantaneous, rather than long term bromide concentrations.

Doug Owen presented an explanation of the EPA rulemaking process, following which the meeting was adjourned.